THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c) Government have taken appropriate diplomatic and other measures in view of Pakistan's continued support to cross border terrorism against India.These included the decision to recall the Indian High Commissioner from Islamabad; terminate the services of Samjhauta Express and the Delhi-Lahore bus service with effect from 1 st January, 2002; reduce the strength of the respective High Commissions in the two countries by 50%; restrict the movement of those officials and family members who stayed back to the municipal limits of Delhi. India has also handed over to Pakistan a list of 20 fugitives from law with the request that they be apprehended and handed over to India.

President of Pakistan has now made commitments to end cross border infiltration and terrorism on a permanent basis. Government constantly monitors the situation and taken necessary and appropriate action.

Pakistani help to North-Eastern militants

1693. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will therMinister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news report which appeared in the 'Hindustan Times' dated the 29th June, 2002 under the caption "Pervez plays host to North-Eastern militants too";

(b) if so, whether Government have examined this press report; and

(c) if so, what action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) It is now well established and widely acknowledged that Pakistan has been sponsoring cross border terrorism directed against India, including in the north-east.

(c) Government have taken appropriate diplomatic and other measures. Government have also been effectively bringing to the attention of the international community facts pertaining to Pakistan's continued sponsorship of cross border terrorism in India. The President of Pakistan has made commitments on January 12, May 27 and June 6 to end cross border infiltration on a permanent basis, not allow the territory of Pakistan

to be used for terrorism anywhere in the world and not to allow any organization to indulge in terrorism in the name of Kashmir.

Meeting of Indian experts with American law-makers

1694. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD:
DR.AKHILESHDAS:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian team of experts visited U.S. for consultations with American law-makers and specialists and had made a strong case for U.S. holding Pakistan on a tight leash on the terrorism front;

(b) if so, the composition of the team and the success it met with;

(c) whether in spite of India's withdrawal of Navy, the Pakistani militants continued their attacks on pilgrims and Hindu minority in Jammu and Kashmir; and

(d) if so, the steps Government propose to take to check the activities of militants in these areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Government is aware that, as part of the broad-based engagement between India and the United States, a number of independent experts from India visit the United States and interact with U.S. law-makers, officials and experts on bilateral, regional and international issues, including on the issue of cross-border terrorism from Pakistan.

The U.S. Government has repeatedly said that Pakistan must stop cross-border infiltration immediately and permanently and take action against terrorist camps, and has further said that it has received assurances from President Musharraf in this regard. Government has noted that leading U.S. Congressmen have asked the U.S. Government to take effective steps to ensure that President Musharraf fulfils his commitments to stop cross-border terrorism against India.

(c) Notwithstanding the commitment by President Musharraf on 12 January, 2002 and repeated on 27 May, 2002 as also his pledge to the United States, infiltration and terrorist incidents continue in Jammu & Kashmir.